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September 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 160 – August 2020
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On August 21, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG consultants held a call to discuss an error in the electronic data delivery (EDD) file for Current Conditions Biota sampling data results.

Correspondence

- On August 4, CPG provided Region 2 schedule information regarding upcoming Current Conditions Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) in-water equipment servicing and monitoring conditions for a 300 – 600 cfs Spring Tide event.
- On August 13, Region 2 provided comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS) to CPG.
- On August 17, CPG notified Region 2 of a planned Current Conditions Small Volume (SV) Chemical Water Column Monitoring (CWCM) sampling event.

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- On August 17, CPG notified Region 2 of its intention to dispose of crab and fish specimens not used as part of the Current Conditions Biota sampling event.
- On August 17, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the Current Conditions SV CWCM survey schedule and split sample coordination.
- On August 18, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding a change in Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling schedule.
- On August 17, CPG delivered the July Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On August 19, CPG provided suggested revisions to specific sections of the revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.
- On August 20, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding confirmation of details of a call on August 18, 2020 discussing retention of stored 2019 Current Conditions Biota specimens and the schedule for removing PWCM moorings.
- On August 24, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the status of removal of in-water monitoring equipment for the Current Conditions PWCM program.

Work

- CPG continued reviewing and preparing responses to Region 2 comments on the Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG conducted in-water monitoring equipment servicing on August 5 – 6 for the Current Conditions PWCM program.
- CPG conducted a Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling event August 20 – 21 for a 300 – 600 cfs Spring Tide.
- CPG serviced and removed the Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment August 25 – 27.
- CPG continued analysis of 2020 Current Conditions SV CWCM samples.
- CPG continued preparation of data summary reports for 2019 Current Conditions biota and surface water monitoring programs.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will respond to additional comments on the revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS delivered to Region 2 on August 7.
- CPG will continue analysis of 2020 Current Conditions SV CWCM samples.
- CPG will begin data validation for the 2020 Current Conditions SV CWCM sampling events following receipt of analytical data.

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- CPG will continue preparing data summary reports for the 2019 Current Conditions biota and surface water monitoring programs.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 have impacted and delayed 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling field work

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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